

WALT Read and construct stem and leaf plots and calculate different averages such as the mean, mode, range and median.

Success Criteria I can

-read stem and leaf plots.

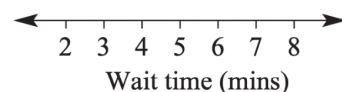
-I know how to calculate all the averages and understand the way to work on averages.

-List the numbers plotted in a stem and leaf plot

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**2** A student records the following wait times in minutes for his school bus over 4 school weeks.

5 4 2 8 4 2 7 5 3 3  
5 4 2 5 4 5 8 7 2 6



Copy and complete this dot plot of the data.

**3** List the data shown in these stem-and-leaf plots.

**a**

Stem	Leaf
3	2 5
4	1 3 7
5	4 4 6
6	0 2
7	1 1

4|1 means 41

**b**

Stem	Leaf
0	2 3 7
1	4 4 8 9
2	3 6 6
3	0 5

2|3 means 2.3

Look at the key '4|1 means 41' to see how the stems and leaves go together.



- A **stem-and-leaf plot** uses a stem number and leaf number to represent data.
  - The data is shown in two parts: a stem and a leaf.
  - The 'key' tells you how the plot is to be read.
  - The graph is similar to a histogram on its side or a bar graph, but there is no loss of detail of the original data.

**Stem-and-leaf plot**

A visual representation of data that groups the scores in a set of data and lists them in order horizontally

Ordered stem-and-leaf plot

Stem	Leaf
1	2 6
2	2 3 4 7
3	1 2 4 7 8 9
4	2 3 4 5 8
5	7 9

A key is added to show the place value of the stems and leaves.

2 | 4 means 24 people

4 Order this stem-and-leaf plot.

Stem	Leaf
12	7 2 3
10	1 4 8 1
13	9 0 2
11	3 0 3 6

12 | 2 means 122

Stems and leaves need to be placed in numerical order.



► **Let's start: Ships vs Chops**

At a school, Ms Ships' class and Mr Chops' class sit the same exam. The scores are displayed using this back-to-back stem-and-leaf plot. Discuss the following.

- Which class had the most students?
- What were the lowest and highest scores from each class?
- What were the median scores from each class?
- Which class could be described as symmetrical and which as skewed?
- Which class had the better results?

For the data below, digits representing the stem give the tens, and digits representing the leaves give the units.

Leaf	Stem	Leaf
Ms Ships' class		Mr Chops' class
3 1	5	0 1 1 3 5 7
8 8 7 5	6	2 3 5 5 7 9 9
6 4 4 2 1	7	8 9 9
7 4 3	8	0 3
6	9	1

7 | 8 means 78

- **Back-to-back stem-and-leaf plots** can be used to compare two sets of data. The stem is drawn in the middle, with the leaves on either side.

Scores for the last 30 football games

	Winning scores		Losing scores
		7	4 5 8 8 9
81 lowest winning score →	1	8	0 0 3 3 6 7
	7 5	9	1 2 3 6
Symmetrical	8 4 4 1	10	3 9
	9 5 0	11	1 ← 111 highest losing score
	3 1	12	

10 | 9 means 10.9

**Back-to-back stem-and-leaf plot**

A visual representation of two sets of data that groups the scores and lists them in order horizontally on either side of the stem

**Symmetrical data**

A distribution of data that is balanced on either side of the mean and the median

**Skewed data**

Scores in a set of data that are unevenly distributed around either side of the mean and the median

- **Symmetrical data** will produce a graph that is symmetrical about the centre.
- **Skewed data** will produce a graph that includes data bunched to one side of the centre.

1 List the numbers in these stem-and-leaf plots, following the key.

**a**

Stem	Leaf
3	5 7
4	1 3 8

3 | 1 means 3.1

The same stem goes with each leaf along each row.



**b**

Stem	Leaf
5	2
6	0 1 7
7	3 5

6 | 3 means 63

2 a Rewrite this stem-and-leaf plot with the leaves in order from smallest on the left to largest on the right.

Stem	Leaf
5	8 6 1 7
6	7 3 0 2
7	3 5 1 4

b If the stems are units and the leaves are tenths, write a possible key.

In part b, the key must include a decimal point.



- 3** This stem-and-leaf plot shows the number of minutes Alexis spoke on her phone for a number of calls.

Stem	Leaf
0	8
1	5 9
2	1 1 3 7
3	4 5

2 | 1 means 21 minutes

Count the leaves to find the number of scores.



- How many calls are represented by the stem and leaf plot?
- What is the length of the:
  - shortest phone call?
  - longest phone call?
- What is the mode (the most common call time)?
- What is the median call time (middle value)?

- 4** This back-to-back stem-and-leaf plot shows the thickness of tyre tread on a selection of cars from the city and country.

City		Country
8 7 3 1 0 0 0	0	6 8 8 9
8 6 3 1 0	1	0 4 5 5 6 9
1	2	3 4 4

1 | 3 means 13 mm

06 is just written as 6.



- How many car tyres were tested altogether?
- What was the smallest tyre tread thickness in:
  - the city?
  - the country?
- What was the largest tyre tread thickness in:
  - the city?
  - the country?
- Find the median tyre tread thickness for tyres in:
  - the city
  - the country
- Is the distribution of tread thickness for city cars more symmetrical or skewed?
- Is the distribution of tread thickness for country cars more symmetrical or skewed?

Skewed distributions have only a few scores at one end.



For this set of data:

0.3 2.5 4.1 3.7 2.0 3.3 4.8 3.3 4.6 0.1 4.1 7.5 1.4 2.4  
5.7 2.3 3.4 3.0 2.3 4.1 6.3 1.0 5.8 4.4 0.1 6.8 5.2 1.0

- a** Organise the data into an ordered stem-and-leaf plot.
- b** Find the median.
- c** Find the mode.
- d** Describe the data as symmetrical or skewed.

**Solution**

**Explanation**

**a**

Stem	Leaf
0	1 1 3
1	0 0 4
2	0 3 3 4 5
3	0 3 3 4 7
4	1 1 1 4 6 8
5	2 7 8
6	3 8
7	5

3 | 4 means 3.4

The minimum is 0.1 and the maximum is 7.5 so stems range from 0 to 7.  
Place leaves in order from smallest to largest.  
Some numbers appear more than once; e.g. two instances of 0.1 means that the leaf 1 appears twice: 0.1, 0.1, ...

**b** 
$$\text{Median} = \frac{3.3 + 3.4}{2} = 3.35$$

There are 28 data values. The median is the average of the two middle values (the 14th and 15th values).

**c** Mode is 4.1.

The most common value is 4.1.

**d** Data is approximately symmetrical.

The distribution of numbers is approximately symmetrical about the stem containing the median.

**5** For each of the following data sets:

- i** organise the data into an ordered stem-and-leaf plot
- ii** find the median
- iii** find the mode
- iv** describe the data as symmetrical or skewed

**a** 41 33 28 24 19 32 54 35 26 28  
19 23 32 26 28

**b** 31 33 23 35 15 23 48 50 35 42 45 15 21 45  
51 31 34 23 42 50 26 30 45 37 39

**c** 34.5 34.9 33.7 34.5 35.8 33.8 34.3 35.2 37.0 34.7  
35.2 34.4 35.5 36.5 36.1 33.3 35.4 32.0 36.3 34.8

**d** 167 159 159 193 161 164 167 157 158 175 177 185  
177 202 185 187 159 189 167 159 173 198 200

Draft version: Enter the leaves in the same order as in the question.  
Final version: Re-write the stem-and-leaf plot with leaves in order. Remember to include the key.



In part **d**, use 16 as the stem for 167.



- 6** The number of vacant rooms in a motel each week over a 20-week period is shown below.  
 12 8 11 10 21 12 6 11 12 16 14 22 5 15 20 6 17 8 14 9
- a** Draw a stem-and-leaf plot of this data.  
**b** In how many weeks were there fewer than 12 vacant rooms?  
**c** Find the median number of vacant rooms.

A shop owner has two jeans shops. The daily sales in each shop over a 16-day period are monitored and recorded as follows.

**Shop A**

3 12 12 13 14 14 15 15 21 22 24 24 24 26 27 28

**Shop B**

4 6 6 7 7 8 9 9 10 12 13 14 14 16 17 27

- a** Draw a back-to-back stem-and-leaf plot.  
**b** Compare and comment on differences between the sales made by the two shops.

**Solution**

**Explanation**

**a**

Shop A		Shop B
	3	0
5 5 4 4 3 2 2	1	4 6 6 7 7 8 9 9
8 7 6 4 4 4 2 1	2	0 2 3 4 4 6 7
		7

1 | 3 means 13

The data for each shop is already ordered. Stems are in intervals of 10. Record leaf digits for Shop A on the left and Shop B on the right, ordered from the middle to the outside.

- b** Shop A sales are generally between 12 and 28, with one low value of 3. Shop B sales are generally between 4 and 17, with one high value of 27. Shop A has a lot more high values than Shop B. Shop B has more low values than Shop A.
- Look at both sides of the plot for the highest and lowest values and whether there are a few or many of the small and large numbers.

Highlights and Notes

- 7** For each of the following sets of data:
- i** Draw a back-to-back stem-and-leaf plot.  
**ii** State the smallest and largest value in each set and compare the numbers of small and large values in each set.
- a** Set A: 46 32 40 43 45 47 53 54 40 54 33 48  
 39 43

Set B: 48 49 31 40 43 47 48 41 49 51 44 46  
 53 44

- b** Set A: 1 43 24 26 48 50 2 2 36 11 16 37 41 3 36  
 6 8 9 10 17 22 10 11 17 29 30 35 4 23 23

Set B: 9 18 19 19 20 21 23 24 27 28 31 37 37 38 39 39 39  
 40 41 41 43 44 44 45 47 50 50 51 53 53 54 54 55 56

- c** Set A: 0.7 0.8 1.4 8.8 9.1 2.6 3.2 0.3 1.7 1.9 2.5 4.1 4.3 3.3 3.4  
 3.6 3.9 3.9 4.7 1.6 0.4 5.3 5.7 2.1 2.3 1.9 5.2 6.1 6.2 8.3

Set B: 0.1 0.9 0.6 1.3 0.9 0.1 0.3 2.5 0.6 3.4 4.8 5.2 8.8 4.7 5.3  
 2.6 1.5 1.8 3.9 1.9 0.1 0.2 1.2 3.3 2.1 4.3 5.7 6.1 6.2 8.3

Order the leaves with the smallest on the inside and largest on the outside. State whether each set has a few or many of the small numbers and large numbers.



- 8 a** Draw a back-to-back stem-and-leaf plot for the final scores of St Kilda and Collingwood in the 24 AFL games given here.

St Kilda:    126   68   78   90   87   118  
              88   125   111   117   82   82  
              80   66   84   138   109   113  
              122   80   94   83   106   68

Collingwood: 104   80   127   88   103   95  
              78   118   89   82   103   115  
              98   77   119   91   71   70  
              63   89   103   97   72   68

- b** In what percentage of their games did each team score more than 100 points?
- c** Comment on the symmetry of the distribution of the scores for each team.
- d** Which team has scores that are more consistent? Which team has more higher scores?



Percentage = fraction  $\times$  100.

